

SILENT BACK DOOR OF ILLEGAL ENTRY—PUERTO RICO

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take Mr. OSBORNE's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, more news from the front: The border war continues. Our terrorist field hearings last week proved one thing: The vulnerabilities on our southern border are monumental. But it is not just our southern border coming under attack. It is Puerto Rico, that silent back door of illegal entry into America.

This is something that we should be concerned with. Border agents there report a staggering lack of security. In fact, you can count on one hand the number of field agents that they have in Puerto Rico on patrol at any given time. Only four active patrol agents patrol this island at once, and they only have 23 agents on the whole island assigned to patrol an island with 363 miles of coastline. These field agents find themselves isolated with these limited resources. Our government even cherry-picks border agents there to send them to other spots, like our southwestern border.

What could be more vulnerable than one agent patrolling 90 miles of coastline? Even the Blackhawk helicopters that they used to use are so broken down they don't even fly anymore.

While we watch the southern border, the human smugglers, narcotics traffickers; and terrorists are not only watching our southern border, they are watching Puerto Rico, knowing it is an easy, back door gateway to America.

With rumors of amnesty spreading throughout the world, especially Latin America and Asia, human smugglers are seizing the moment, causing crime and violence at the borders to skyrocket.

This year Federal immigration officials say the waters off of Puerto Rico are filled with more human cargo than they have ever seen before. The tiny island just off Puerto Rico's coast, Mona Island, is a jumping-off spot for people who wish to illegally enter America.

Last year, it was the site of more than 6,500 arrests of illegals traveling on rickety wooden boats called yolas. They storm Puerto Rico's beaches as if they were troops landing at Normandy or the Marines in World War II as they island-hopped in the Pacific.

Out of 10 illegals that are crammed on one of these boats, border agents say they are lucky if they are able to capture two of them. And the smugglers who arrange these deadly and illegal invasions into Puerto Rico have seen a spike in their business.

In 2001, for example, less than five Cubans were captured on Mona Island illegally entering the United States. But in the past 9 months, almost 600 have arrived; and they pay between \$1,500 and \$2,000 apiece to their human

smugglers, and the human smugglers have yet to be prosecuted. It is so lucrative smuggling humans in the United States that it pays even more than trafficking drugs.

But the most dangerous cargo are possible terrorists from Middle Eastern countries, China and Korea, that are easily masked by the thousands who rush the border monthly, thousands who rush the beaches; and Puerto Rico's leaders are worried that the island's drug traffickers could collaborate with terrorist organizations. Because, you see, once people get to Puerto Rico, they are home free to the rest of America if they do not stay in the Puerto Rico vicinity. They could stay there and destroy vital infrastructure that we have in Puerto Rico. For example, one of the two insulin plants that exist in the whole world is in Puerto Rico.

And, of course, Puerto Rico is unique because it has a cruise business. We don't have much of a cruise business down on the Texas-Mexico border with the Rio Grande River, but they certainly have a cruise business in Puerto Rico. It makes a unique security problem for the United States, so we certainly need to beef up border security in this area.

Once in Puerto Rico, illegal immigrants easily obtain false identification like birth certificates and driver's licenses. They fraudulently claim on these birth certificates and driver's licenses that they are U.S. citizens. So once they have convinced individuals at the border they are U.S. citizens, they easily assimilate into America. One official says getting a fake document in Puerto Rico is like getting a candy out of a candy jar.

And airport security is not an obstacle either. At the airport on the northwest portion of the island, the 4:00 a.m. flight to the mainland of the United States, it is always full of people, but the Border Patrol is never there because they don't have enough agents to cover that portion and time zone.

Mr. Speaker, Puerto Rico is an important part of America. It enjoys a unique relationship with the continental United States. It is part of America's homeland, and it is worth protecting from the sea of invasion by illegals.

It is important that we have more border agents in Puerto Rico, and Puerto Rico needs the services of the U.S. Coast Guard. It cannot become the silent back door of illegal entry into the United States. It is a homeland security problem, it is a border security problem, and it is a national security problem.

And that's just the way it is.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

IRAQ OCCUPATION

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim Mr. BROWN's time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Washington is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the bodies of 20 kidnapped and murdered bus drivers were found in Iraq today. That occurred just before a suicide bomber walked into a Baghdad restaurant and blew himself up, killing seven people.

Then Secretary of Defense Don Rumsfeld arrived on an unannounced visit and said: "Each time I come to Iraq, I see progress." That is a direct quote from the UPI.

Iraq is convulsed by sectarian violence. It is a nation disintegrating into homicidal chaos. It is a killing zone where Iraqi citizens purchase fake documents in hopes of staying alive if confronted by militias. It is a place where the killing has moved from the streets to inside the homes of Iraqi citizens. It is a country whose leaders acknowledge it is on the brink of all-out civil war, and the President's secretary of war, the man controlling the fate of 129,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq stands up and flat out misleads the troops who don't get to go home to the United States at the end of the day like Mr. Rumsfeld does.

America's independent government watchdog agency, the Government Accountability Office, just released a report that confirmed what everyone except the President and his political appointees already know: There is no adequate plan to stabilize Iraq, and the occupation by U.S. forces is fueling the sectarian violence.

Rumsfeld can claim things are getting better to reporters while standing inside a fortified U.S. base, but that flies in the face of the facts. U.S. troop strength in Baghdad has been increased from 40,000 to 55,000 people. The Los Angeles Times reported on Sunday about rampant corruption inside the Iraqi security forces, including direct ties to the insurgents.

Our soldiers are becoming surrounded by a growing insurgency, and the civilian leader says things are getting better.

Secretary Rumsfeld was going to meet with Iraqi government leaders to tell them how to deal with the crisis. He told reporters he was going to tell the Iraqi leaders to do this: "They are going to have to persuade as many people as possible that it is in their interest to support the government and participate in the political process." He went on to say, "And anyone who doesn't want to, they're going to have to go find and do something about."

He neglected to say that plan was tried and failed last month. It was called Operation Forward Together, and it didn't work. How could it?

The presence of an occupying force is fueling the violence. And despite the

fact there are 267,000 Iraqi security forces, the American people are told repeatedly that they cannot defend Iraq on their own.

Three years later, the only plan the President and the secretary of war can articulate is to "stay indefinitely." Our military generals know full well this so-called plan guarantees more needless U.S. casualties, and Iraqi leaders know it guarantees more sectarian violence.

In the past, I and others have called for the resignation of the Defense Secretary, Mr. Rumsfeld. Today, I offer a better plan. The President should keep his political appointee. In fact, the President should transfer Secretary Rumsfeld to Iraq. He should be stationed there until every last U.S. soldier leaves the Nation we are now occupying.

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The Secretary says he sees progress every time he visits. Imagine what he might see by actually living and working there.

There is no higher priority for the President, the U.S. military and America these days than Iraq. It stands to reason that the President's military appointee should be directly able to report for duty in Baghdad. Rumsfeld could personally work with the leaders of the Iraq government and show them how to implement his plan. By working in Iraq, the Secretary could accept direct responsibility for generating more of what he calls progress every time he visits Iraq. He could show America and the rest of the world the progress that only he and the President pretend to see.

The only true thing we can say about Iraq today is that it is on the brink of dissolving into unspeakable violence.

We cannot pretend our way out of Iraq, and we cannot pretend that the Iraqi people believe that our presence is stabilizing the country.

Iraq needs a plan that does not include the occupation of that country by foreign soldiers, including U.S. soldiers. Until this administration admits that it cannot shoot its way to victory, Iraq will grow more and more violent.

If Defense Secretary Rumsfeld was stationed there, America might finally get an honest assessment of the war and a road map to peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McHENRY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING "DOC" LONG

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. William Henry "Doc"

Long, a decorated World War II veteran and a successful businessman. He has dedicated his life to serving his country, his community and his family, and that is why I honor him today.

Long before Doc owned many successful family businesses in North Carolina, he served in the highly decorated 79th Infantry Division in the U.S. Army. Every living American directly benefits from the actions of the men of the 79th, and the many military units of the World War II era.

While in France, Doc was wounded when he was hit in the left side of his chest. As he lay in the cold night for 18 hours, he was wounded again. When he was found the next morning and taken to the aid station, his clothes and shoes had been cut off. But his personal belongings, just a wallet and a small pocket New Testament with his name inscribed on the front, were saved.

After a few days, Doc noticed that his Bible, which was given to him by his aunt, had been hit by a piece of shrapnel which went through the entire Bible but caught the outer binding. Doc stated that the Bible, which he kept close to his heart, was a gift of life because it prevented the shrapnel from piercing his heart.

After he was wounded Doc was awarded the Purple Heart with the Oak Leaf Cluster, in addition to numerous other medals, including the Bronze Star, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

After the war, Doc started his first trucking and construction business, Long Brothers of Summerfield, with his brother James. In 1952 the brothers started Long's Asphalt Paving of Greensboro. Later Doc and his brother split the companies. Since then, Doc's children have joined their father in his business and, with Doc's help, have owned or started their own businesses.

Doc and his late wife, Doris Westmoreland Long, were married for 44 years. Doris died in 1990, at the age of 66. Together the Longs have three children, Gurney Long, Patty Long-Hill and Charles, who passed away unexpectedly last year. They also have a number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Today, at 82, Doc still loves to participate in the business decisions and operations of his founding companies. In 2003, Doc helped two of his grandchildren start a business, and they proudly adopted his original company name, Long Brothers. This company is now located in Winston-Salem, where they successfully operate 20 trucks and employ 23 full-time employees. These endeavors are commendable because only 3 percent of family-owned businesses ever make it to the third generation.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Doc for his devotion to his family, his perseverance in all his business ventures and his honest and faith-

ful service to his country during World War II. His story should be an inspiration for us all.

CLOSING OF CIA'S BIN LADEN UNIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the more President Bush entangles this country of ours in the Iraq occupation, the less committed it seems he is to the real national security threat we face, global terrorism, al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.

Over the holiday weekend, when few people were paying attention, it was reported that the CIA has closed down "Alec Station," its special unit that was charged specifically with tracking down and capturing Bin Laden.

We've sure come a long way since the immediate aftermath of 9/11, when the President promised to get him, dead or alive. So much for Sheriff Bush. The tabloids are doing a better job of hunting down Tom Cruise's baby than this administration is at finding bin Laden. But this latest decision is of a piece with the Bush approach to bin Laden.

In the fall of 2001, he had bin Laden cornered at Tora Bora, but the President let him get away by relying on local warlords rather than moving American troops in to finish the job.

And a few months later, at a White House press conference, the President's cavalier approach to bin Laden was on full display. "I don't know where he is," the President said. "I just don't spend that much time on him. I truly am not concerned about him."

Well, 300 million other Americans are concerned, and they want to know why we can spend hundreds of billions of dollars to occupy and foment civil war in Iraq, but we can't maintain a single intelligence operation office devoted to apprehending the man responsible for the murder of thousands of Americans. And this from a President who has never missed an opportunity to wave the flag of 9/11, to exploit that tragedy in order to score political points and justify the reckless use of American power in Iraq.

The evidence is clear. This President is not serious about fighting terrorism. If he were, he wouldn't have diverted energy and resources away from the struggle in order to chase this white whale in Iraq.

Saddam Hussein, as we know by now, was not an ally of bin Laden's and was not a threat to U.S. security. But by invading Iraq, President Bush has turned that devastated country into a jihadist breeding ground and made all of us less safe. The Iraq war has created terrorists rather than stopping them.

There is only one answer. It is time to bring the troops home and end the occupation of Iraq. Then we can redirect our resources, military and otherwise, toward finding bin Laden and